

Commercial Printing

PHONE 5429

EL PASO, TEXAS

BOX 667

Sept. 6th, 1917

Dr. T. B. Ray,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:--

Yours of the 31st just received. Am glad to hear from you again. Am indeed glad that you had an enjoyable vacation. I for one think you deserved it.

I too have been off on a kind of vacation. I went to Colorado to get my family. We visited a few days with Mrs. Davis' people up there in Colorado and Kansas, then came on here. We reached this place Monday evening.

I had intended writing you about the purchase of the Linotype, but had a card from your office stating that you were away and would not be back before the latter part of the month, so I decided to wait till I got back here before writing you in detail. Yes, I got the discount. The agent telegraphed for instructions, and the House authorized him to discount the bill 10% and the motor, which is usually net, 5%. They have been very nice about it.

I drew the full amount authorized, as we had to have a melting furnace which cost \$150 and 500 lbs. of metal, which cost about \$80. Then the freight and installing of the machine have to be paid. When I get all paid I will render a detailed account and if there is any over, will send it.

Yes, I think we will be able to do some good work now. I hope Uncle Sam will get a sharp stick after the paper people and make them divide up a little with us missionaries. Paper is very high, but I think even though it is high, we will be able to do some good work. And it is needed.

The press has not arrived yet, but I have a letter from the Shipping Co., and it would seem that it ought to be on shortly. I hope we will be able to get both machines in place by November.

I will try to get material together as soon as possible to write that article you wanted. I think I can get it in within a reasonably short time, though I am going to be very busy.

We have had a hard time getting a house. We will have to have more rent money. I asked for \$35 for next year and it will take that amount to get a house at all suitable, and we had to take a house for the present at even a higher cost, but we will stand that part of the rent till we get a suitable place within the amount asked for. Can you get this increase for us? I really hate to ask it, but we cant help the high rent rate here.

While in Lamar I drew on you for my August salary, shipping expenses and railroad tickets. Will draw again for the rest and will give you detailed report of same. You have on the check I drew the amounts as I drew them. I intended to notify you of that but just put it off as we were starting for Kansas on a visit. The tickets are three tickets from Denver to El Paso, as my younger boy and myself ride on half fare.

As soon as I get settled and things arranged a little better, I think I will feel better, but just at the present am not feeling very well. But you know what this moving means.

✓ Pray for this work. It is a great necessity now, and I am going to try to enlist a large number of praying people in just asking God's blessings upon this work every day. I am sure that you will be one of the number.

Well, I trust that the outlook for the work is good. I mean the work in general. War conditions are bad, but maybe God's people will be more constant and prayerful.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis

Sept. 11, 1917

Rev. J. E. Davis,

El Paso, Texas.

Dear Davis:-

I am glad to get your letter of September 6th.

I have been wanting to know how things were going with you. I guessed you were in Colorado for the purpose of bringing your family home.

Your statement about the state of the transaction with reference to the Linotype is all right. You will let me hear later. I will note what you say about rent and see what can be done when it comes to making up appropriations.

You may be sure I will be amongst those who will pray for you in your work. You have a large field of work and I believe God's Hand is upon you in doing it.

My heart is with you.

Cordially yours,

R/W

Sept. 20, 1917

Rev. J. E. Davis,

Box 667, El Paso, Texas.

Dear Davis:-

I am in the toils of making up the Estimates for next year and I want to ask you a question about your Publishing House.

In the Estimates which were sent in by you about the time you went South for your supplies, you requested that we appropriate for you next year a grand total of \$4,317.80. This covered the publishing of El Expositor Biblico and El Bautista, the children's paper and certain absolute needs.

In your letter of August 12th, you state you will probably have one thousand dollars on hand at the end of this year, which can be properly passed over in order to meet part of the expenses for next year. Then you say "if you grant us your part of the amount asked for and they (the Northern Board) will grant their part from April on, why won't that be all right?"

Now one-half of the \$4,317.80 you request is \$2,158.90, which would be the amount which you would pay, provided they could support the work equally throughout the year. This would be \$179.91 a month for each Board. Now do you mean to say that you can finance your Publishing House, provided we will pay you \$179.91 for the first four months of the year, and the Northern Board will pay you \$179.91 per month for the remaining eight months?

By your calculations, your income from the sale of goods in Mexico and the surplus material carried over would pay half of the \$4,317.80 you request, and the two Boards dividing it in the fashion indicated above would pay the other half. Am I correct?

Or, do you mean that you want our Board to give you the \$179.91 throughout the year, and the Northern Board to give you that same amount for eight months of the year? The income in this case from the sale of goods in Mexico and your surplus would provide the half for the first four months which the Northern Board would naturally be expected to provide. Please straighten out this tangle for me and let me hear from you immediately, because we will soon have our Board meeting.

Cordially yours,

September 25th, 1917

Dear Brother Ray:--

Yours of the 20th just to hand. Will answer at once, as I see you are in a hurry for the data asked for. Here goes, though it is quite a guess as to what we ought to have, but I will try to be explicit.

I made the estimates that you refer to on a very unsatisfactory basis, and have revised them somewhat. I think we can make it through and keep the wheels moving if we can get our hands on to \$4000.00 for the year. This is some better than the original estimate called for. I have made some contracts for paper that are very satisfactory, and am expecting a man any minute that will make me a good inside price on a lot more paper, so I have been able to save quite a nice sum, and hope to be able to keep that up through the year, as I am always trying to do.

Now of this amount we can take care of about \$1000.00 out of the money that has come in and will come in from the sale of stock in México. I estimate that we can take care of that amount, besides buying a motor for the press and paying the installation of the machinery.

So, it would be up to our Board to see that we got \$1000.00 for the first four months, that is, \$250 per month, and then if the New York Board comes in on the proposition, and pays their part after that time, our Board would need to give us for the rest of the year, \$83.33 per month to make up its part.

Of course I might have to ask you to advance me a bit but I think not. The reason is that a part of that \$1000 I propose to take care of comes in \$50 per month all through the year, and as we will have to do our buying in advance in pretty good sized lots, we might have to have a little help to get our bills paid promptly, which is a rule of this House while I have it under my management. But we may not have to call on you. I hope we will not.

No, we did not have so much paper as to be able to finance the plant quite so nicely as you suppose, or rather, as one of your interpretations make it appear. I wish we had had enough, but this stock represents actual savings, as well as a large part of the type and other material we have at León.

We are waiting for news of the machinery. I think we will get it in before long now.

I have not been feeling as well as I would like, but am working along, trying to get all in shape for business when we do get the machinery installed.

Fraternally yours,

J. E. Davis